

## INFORMATION DEVICES

This invention relates to information devices which may for example carry personal information such as the name and address of the user and/or medical details.

Similar presently known information devices have a rigid label portion, which for convenience and ease of use is made relatively small in size. The information in these prior art devices cannot be kept private, whereby personal details which would not normally be made public such as allergies to certain drugs, diseases and disabilities like heart trouble, epilepsy etc. might be seen by a casual observer.

## SUMMARY OF INVENTION

In accordance with the invention an information device comprises a relatively rigid support portion suitable for attachment to a person, animal or object, a relatively flexible information label capable of being secured to the relatively rigid support portion, the secured label being extendable in use into an open state and also storable into a closed state either adjacent to or around the support portion, and a cover member to contain the secured label when stored relative the support portion.

Such a device can not only carry much more detailed information, than for example prior art engraved or preprinted disc plates or cards, but also keep this information private until examined by those with a need to know. Such would encourage many more people to provide appropriate information on their person without embarrassment.

The cover member also provides a device in which the label is protected from wear and tear.

The support portion is suitably provided with a cap member with which the cover member engages, seals (e.g. gaskets or O rings) also being provided to give a water and air tight device.

The label is suitably made of thin material such that it can be easily stored either adjacent to or around the support portion for example by folding, coiling, wrapping or rolling of the label material.

Since a stored label will have a propensity to return to its original (i.e. coiled or folded) state when "opened-out", means are suitably provided to retain the label when needed in the extended, open and flat state, such that information therefrom can be easily obtained.

Such a retaining means may be holding means suitably a clip or hook provided on the side of the label opposite the side secured to the support portion, in which clip or hook is positioned a retaining member.

Alternatively the retaining means may be in the form of a pocket provided in the label along the longitudinal mid-point thereof, in which pocket is positioned a retaining member.

In a further embodiment, the retaining means may be in the form of hoops attached to the label, in which hoops a retaining member is inserted.

In yet a further embodiment, the retaining means may be in the form of an attachment member(s) on the label, to which attachment member(s) is connected a retaining member.

Preferably, the retaining member for any of the embodiments of retaining means is the cover member.

The cover member and support portion are advantageously held together on attachment means preferably a

cord or chain whereby one cannot be totally separated from the other and lost.

Alternatively, the cover member and support portion are held together by the cover member being secured to one end of the label portion while the support portion is secured to the opposite end of the label portion.

An example of a specific application of this invention would be its use for medical identification purposes. The label in a folded, coiled or rolled position could be stored in the cover member, suitably a waterproof and fire resistant container, the identification device being attached to a chain, cord, clip, pin or any other device of a similar nature that can be attached to or worn by the user. Imprinted on the cover member could be, (as an example), the International Standards Organization symbol for "MEDICAL ALERT" as well as instructions how to open the device. An accident situation with the victim unable to talk or communicate and with perhaps the more conventional means of identification like a wallet or handbag lost or stolen would mean that the victim might not be able to indicate an allergy to drugs or a condition that could be complicated by regular treatment. The first aid team or the police would upon seeing the "MEDICAL ALERT" symbol on the device worn round the victim's neck or as a bracelet would then open the device and examine the label to read the information it contained. The label kept in an extended position by the retaining means provided would then serve to identify the wearer through the hectic process of an emergency admission to a hospital as well as speedier notification to the next of kin.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows a first embodiment of information device in accordance with the invention,

FIG. 2 shows a second embodiment of information device in accordance with the invention,

FIG. 3 shows a third embodiment of information device, in accordance with the invention,

FIG. 4 shows a fourth embodiment of information device in accordance with the invention,

FIG. 5 shows a cover member suitable for use with the information devices of FIGS. 1 to 4,

FIG. 6 shows a fifth embodiment of information device in accordance with the invention, in a first open position,

FIG. 7 shows the device of FIG. 6 in a second open position,

FIG. 8 shows a cross-section of a sixth embodiment of information device in accordance with the invention,

FIG. 9 shows a cross-section of a seventh embodiment of information device in accordance with the invention,

FIG. 10 shows an eighth embodiment of information device in accordance with the invention in a closed position, and

FIG. 11 shows the device of FIG. 10 in an open position.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The information devices 10, 12, 14 and 16 shown in FIGS. 1 to 4 all comprise a support portion 18 for attachment to a person for example by a chain (not shown) passing through the loop 19 on the end of the portion 18, and an information label 20 secured to and wrappable around the portion 18.